

Whitehall



NEYLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1938

Council Offices,
NEYLAND.

June 1939.

THE

NEYLAND,
Pembrokeshire.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Neyland Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the
year 1938.

This will be my last report as your Medical Officer of
Health and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for
your co-operation in the past, and for your endeavours to retain
my services.

Your district covers an area of 640 acres and has an
estimated population for mid 1938 of 2,085 (Registrar-General's
figures). The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1938 was
567, and the rateable value £5764. The sum represented by a levy
of a rate of 1d. is estimated at £21.

Vital Statistics

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
LIVE BIRTHS { Legitimate	16	17	33
{ Illegitimate	3	-	3
Still Births { Legitimate	1	-	1
{ Illegitimate	-	-	-
DEATHS.....			22

BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION = 15.83

RATE PER 1,000 (Live and Still) BIRTHS = 16.30

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 OF ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION = 10.55

No deaths from puerperal causes have occurred during
the year.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:-

ALL INFANTS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.. .. .	90.90
LEGITIMATE INFANTS PER 1,000 LEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS	66.66
ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS PER 1,000 ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS ..	33.33
DEATHS FROM CANCER (all ages).. .. .	2
DEATHS FROM MEASLES (all ages). .. .	NIL
DEATHS FROM WHOOPING COUGH (all ages).. .. .	NIL
DEATHS FROM DIARRHOEA (under 2 years of age)	NIL.

The only special illnesses during the year were a few
cases of Diphtheria in the spring. These appeared to originate
outside the District. None was fatal. There were also a few
cases of Influenza of a mild character.

MEDICAL OFFICERS AND PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS

As in the past I act as part-time Medical Officer of Health, generally supervising the health services of the area.

One official is employed on a whole-time basis by the Council. This official divides his time between the duties of Sanitary Inspector and Road Surveyor. I would like to mention my appreciation of the able manner in which he (Mr. Simpson) discharged his duties as Sanitary Inspector. Mr. Simpson carries out routine inspections of bakeries, food shops, slaughter-houses, and dwelling houses, looks after water services and drains, investigates nuisances, and carries out any other work that may arise. He did a lot of work in connection with A.R.P. during the September Crisis. He refers any matters to me which are connected with Public Health. Mr. Simpson's offices are in the Council Offices.

The Council do not contribute to or control the nursing services of the area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES - unchanged.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES - unchanged - quite adequate for peace time.

NURSING IN THE HOME - As in the past this duty is carried out by one district and one private nurse, and is sufficient for the needs of the area.

TREATMENT CENTRES and CLINICS - As of old the District Nurse conducts a clinic for minor ailments and dressing. The School Medical Officer visits this clinic for examination and treatment.

HOSPITALS - The Council do not control any hospitals, nor have they any arrangements for the admission of patients.

WATER SUPPLY - The water supply is on the whole satisfactory, the water being purchased in bulk from the Milford Haven Urban District Council and distributed by the Neyland Council. Complaints regarding colour are occasionally received but we are given to understand by the Milford Haven U.D.C. that the water is pure and in fact the analysis is very satisfactory. During the year the Council was successful in contracting with the Great Western Railway Company to supply all water used by the Railway Company. This contract is, of course, a great financial relief so far as commitments for water are concerned, but it also means that the existing Reservoir is inadequate. The Council are considering the addition of another and larger Reservoir, The Council should, in my opinion, make ample provision for increased consumption for if, and when, a drainage scheme is adopted the demands for water will be greatly increased. In my opinion provision should be made for storing a three-day supply. The bacteriological and chemical examination of water is usually carried out at the expense of the Milford Haven Urban Council.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE - No main drain exists, so the town depends on earth closets of the most primitive type, while the urine is, I fear, often emptied in the open gutters where in hot weather, the aroma is far from pleasant, even if we can claim that it is peculiar to Neyland. The earth closets are emptied by contract into a closed lorry and conveyed to a tip remotely situated. The tip is treated with lime, and consequently no nuisance is caused.

RIVERS AND STREAMS - No trouble arises from this source.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION - None exists. I once more urge you to give this most important matter your early attention, as Public Urinals could be satisfactorily constructed, and would avert the indignity which now exists of people using the back lanes as urinals.

PUBLIC CLEANING - This has been referred to under the heading of Drainage, but I may add that Cesspools can be cleaned under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector by arrangement with that gentleman.

PUBLIC CLEANING - The Scavenging is let out by Contract. The streets are cleaned by direct labour under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. Cesspits are emptied if desired, by the Council under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector at the expense of the occupier. The gutters are flushed with water in dry weather by means of a hose.

SANITARY INSPECTION - Number of Inspections of Slaughterhouses - 121.
Number of animals slaughtered -

Beats.. ..	54
Sheet.. ..	225
Pigs	48
Calves.. ..	20
TOTAL 347.	

It was not found necessary to condemn any.

SHOPS AND OFFICES - On the whole little trouble has been experienced in getting proprietors in co-operating in keeping the conditions satisfactory.

CAMPING SITES - No camping (excepting for Gypsies) goes on in Meyland consequently no licences were issued by the Local Authority.

SMOKE ABATEMENT - No nuisance occurs here from this cause, as there are no factories, and the town may be regarded more as a country village.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS - Bathing is carried on in the river which is tidal. No swimming pools exist, but I would urge you to consider the question of providing one. As you are all aware bathing is impossible when the tide is out. This fact prevents children from enjoying their daily baths during school terms when tides are full between the hours of 9.0a.m. and 4.0 p.m. The cost of walling a space near the bridge at Church Lakes would be a very small amount to expend in exchange for the benefit it would confer on the health of the young people of the town. Some time ago the sum of £300 was suggested as being the probable cost.

ERADICATION OF LEECHES - No cases of the above pests occurred during the year.

SCHOOLS - The County Council School is in good sanitary condition. It gets its water from the main supply and has a cesspit of its own. The Board School or Church School is not so happily situated. It was condemned years ago. I understand it will be rebuilt or reconditioned when the money can be obtained.

When infectious diseases occur I notify the County Medical Officer of Health, who is also the Senior School Medical Officer, and he closes the schools if in his opinion it is desirable to do so.

HOUSING - The Sanitary Inspector's Report states that he inspected 214 houses during the year, and served informal notices on 25 occasions, 21 of which were complied with. He also states that no houses were condemned during the year. I regret that this report is so brief, but as Mr. Simpson has left the district it is the only information on this subject he sent to me.

MILK SUPPLY - The Sanitary Inspector visits the dairies and cow sheds for the purpose of Inspection, and samples of milk are taken from the Vendors for purposes of analysis. This is carried out at the Leck Laboratories, Swansea. Both bacterial content and investigation for Tubercle bacilli are carried out there, and with a few exceptions the results are fairly satisfactory.

MEAT AND FOOD - The Sanitary Inspector visits the Slaughter-houses some times during killing operations, and at other times to inspect meat exposed for sale. Fortunately no meat had to be destroyed. He also visits shops etc. where food is sold in the same way.

ADULTERATION - No action under this heading has been necessary.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD - No action has been taken under this heading.

NUTRITION - The Council have never taken steps to disseminate any knowledge on this subject.

SHELL FISH - No layings are within the Urban Boundary, but some were laid a few years ago further along the river.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES - As is shewn by the figures we are very free from Infectious Diseases. In case of Diphtheria, Antidiphtheria anti toxine is used at once. There were not enough cases of any other diseases from which to draw any conclusions. The County Council are, I believe, still considering the erection of a new and larger Hospital situated more centrally. In the County Isolation Hospital Anti-scarletena Serum is, I believe, used with good results.

No new arrangements for admission are in force. I may add that the Neyland Urban Council have no direct control of any hospital, isolation or general, their only influence being in the form of protests to the County Council if the arrangements are not regarded as satisfactory by the Urban Council.

The matter of artificial immunization against Diphtheria has been considered, and neglected by you on grounds of expense.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1938

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	2	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	6	Nil	Nil
Enteric Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	4	Nil	1
Other Diseases generally notifiable	3	1	Nil
Other Diseases Notifiable Locally	14	Nil	Nil

The Three cases of Diseases generally notifiable consist of two cases of erysipelas, and one case of ophthalmia neonatorum. The latter is the case admitted to Hospital.



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The Fourteen cases mentioned in the last line of the table are cases of Chickenpox, which were recorded because of the prevalence of that disease at the time, as a guide to the advisability (or otherwise) of closing the schools.

CLASSIFICATION OF INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA
ACCORDING TO AGE.

One to Two years..	..	..	..	Nil
Two to Three Years	..	..	..	Nil
Three to Four Years	..	..	..	Nil
Four to Five years	..	..	..	One
Five to Ten years	..	..	..	Four
Ten to Fifteen Years..	..	..	..	One

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS - No action taken by the Council. The County Authorities take charge of this service.

Tuberculosis - No persons suffering from this Disease were found in the milk business, nor has it ever been necessary to use compulsion to get tubercular patients to undergo institutional treatment in this District during my eleven years of office.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR (Tuberculosis)

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -15 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25 "	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
25-35 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55 "	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	1	4	-	-	-	1	-	-

The only death was notified two months previously. The standard of notification in this area has always been satisfactory since I have known it as I am not aware of any death having occurred in the last eleven years from tuberculosis which has not previously been notified.

NOTES

Since writing this Report the Council have decided to erect a Public Lavatory. This meets with my entire approval, but might I suggest that it could be put in one of the openings (i.e. Car Parks) instead of as suggested in the most prominent position in the High Street. In the position I suggest its utility would not be curtailed, as it would be equally accessible from High Street, but would not be in the position of a civic building.

I understand the Council have put aside the idea of enlarging the Reservoir. This is a very serious matter, as with the Great Western Railway Company's demand on water, your present storage capacity is only about 4 hours (I am informed) which is totally inadequate. If this is not enlarged and a dry season comes

disaster must be the result, i.e. probably total lack of water with a risk of burst boilers etc. to the Householder and Air-locks etc. for your share. It is inconceivable to me that you are prepared to risk the efficiency of a water scheme costing about £9,000 for the false economy of postponing the expenditure of at most about £1,500 to £1,700.

I use the word 'Postponing' because I believe that you will eventually find storage essential

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J.A.K.DOUGLAS,

Medical Officer of Health.
